

From: ChemCraft@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 5:01pm
Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

ALTHOUGH I WILL TRY TO RESPOND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SHERMAN ANTI TRUST

ACT OF 1932- I FEAR THAT A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT EVERYTHING ORIGINATED IN 1932 - THE YEAR OF MY BIRTH- IS AGING AND RUSTING LIKE ME AND NEEDS TO BE REFURBISHED . IN 1932 MUCH OF THE U.S. SENTIMENT WAS ISOLATIONIST AND BUSINESSES COULD EXPECT SOME PROTECTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT. IN THE FREE

TRADE ECONOMY PROMOTED BY THE U.S. - OUR INDUSTRY MUST COMPETE WITH STATE

SPONSORED INDUSTRIES OF OUR MAJOR ECONOMIC COMPETITORS. WHEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SPENDS FORTUNES FEEDING THE EGOS OF U,S, COMPETITORS OF MICROSOFT - TO THE EXTENT THAT TWENTY GREED INSPIRED ATTORNEYS GENERAL. SOUGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN A FRIVOLOUS LAWSUIT AND 9 HAVE REJECTED A PAINFULLY

CONSTRUCTED SETTLEMENT- THEY ALSO SUPPLY AMMUNITION TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

WITH TOTALLY SELF INTERESTED MOTIVES.

IF THE SHERMAN ACT ANYWHERE DEFINES THE CONSUMER AS THE AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL

USER- THE OWNER OF A PC OR THE EMPLOYEE WHO USES A P/C ON HIS/HER JOB- I DEFY ANYONE TO PROVE THAT MICROSOFT HURT THEM IN ANY WAY. IN FACT, I BELIEVE THE MONOPOLISTIC PRACTICES OF MICROSOFT WERE BENEFICIAL TO THE U.S.ECONOMY AND

THE INDIVIDUAL USERS.

IF YOU READ THE COMMENTS ON INTERNET SITES, MICROSOFT CRITICS ARE COMPETITORS

OR TECHNOCRATS WITH UNSATISFIED EGOS BECAUSE

FOR REASONS CLEARLY STATED AS FACTS IN THE SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT-

THROUGH MUCH OF THE WORLD WIDE GROWTH OF THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY ANY SERIOUS

THREAT TO THE MICROSOFT FOUNDATIONAL MONOPOLY WOULD HAVE GREATLY CONSTRICTED

INDUSTRY GROWTH BY INCREASING THE RISK OF PERIPHERAL DEVELOPMENT FOR AN UNCERTAIN MARKETPLACE.

IF YOU COULD ACCURATELY MEASURE THE DOLLAR SIGNIFICANCE OF MICROSOFT'S MONOPOLISTIC LEADERSHIP IN THE INDUSTRY- I QUESTION WHETHER ANY COMPETITOR ACTUALLY SUSTAINED ANY DAMAGE FROM MICROSOFT CONDUCT. WHAT I CLAIM IS THAT

MICROSOFT MAXIMIZED THE GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRY TO THE POINT THAT ALMOST EVERY

PARTICIPANT DID BETTER THAN THEY WOULD HAVE HAD MICROSOFT BEEN SLUGGING IT OUT WITH SUN AND NETSCAPE.

FRANKLY THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT WAS LIMITED BY THE SKILL AND BUDGET OF USERS- NOT THE CHOICE AND INGENUITY OF OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED. HAD THERE BEEN A CORNOCOPIA OF CHOICES, A LARGE PART OF THE MARKETPLACE WOULD HAVE DRIED UP AND DISAPPEARED DUE TO UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF ALTERNATIVES AND THE ABILITY OF PEOPLE TO ADJUST TO EXCESSIVE CHANGE.

IF THE WORLD HAD NOT STANDARDIZED ON DOS AND WINDOWS- THEN MICROSOFT OFFICE- THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPUTERIZED OPERATIONS IN BUSINESS WOULD BE MUCH LESS THAN IT IS-- AND DRAMATICALLY SO OUTSIDE THE U.S. IF THE NETSCAPE BATTLE WITH WINDOWS EXPLORER HAD CONTINUED- THE NUMBER OF INTERNET USERS WOULD BE DRAMATICALLY REDUCED TODAY AND EVERYONE INVOLVED IN E BUSINESS AND .COM WOULD HAVE MADE A LOT LESS MONEY.

THE RULES OF FAIR PLAY CODIFIED IN 1932 SIMPLY DON'T PROTECT THE CONSUMER IN 2002 - EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY. EVEN YOUR PROPOSED REMEDY COULD CAUSE A LOT OF TROUBLE AND TURMOIL. MILLIONS OF AMERICANS LEARN TO USE COMPUTERS IN THEIR JOBS AND THEN BUY ONE FOR THEIR HOME AND FAMILY CONVENIENCE. IF YOU FORCE MICROSOFT TO HELP MIDDLEWEAR DEVELOPERS- YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR EMPLOYEES TO ADD MIDDLEWEAR TO CORPORATE COMPUTERS THAT EVENTUALLY IF NOT IMMEDIATELY WILL BECOME SECURITY, OPERATIONAL AND LABOR PROBLEMS. THINK ABOUT WHO WILL BE THE BIGGEST VICTIM- THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER FOOTING THE BILL FOR ALL THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES CREATING CHAOS ON GOVERNMENT NETWORKS SPREADING COMPETITION ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

SOME TECHNICAL AREAS ARE BECOMING SO COMPLEX THAT THEY ALMOST DEFY CONTROL AND DIRECTION FROM PEOPLE NOT SKILLED IN THE PARTICULAR SCIENCE.. I SUSPECT IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GRANT THEM JUDGEMENT BY THEIR PEERS. HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF MICROSOFT, I SUSPECT THE REAL USER OF A PERSONAL COMPUTER AND THE AVERAGE SMALL BUSINESS USER CONSIDERS MICROSOFT A HERO AND HAS LITTLE OR NO INTEREST IN THE WHINING OF SUN OR NETSCAPE.

AS LONG AS MICROSOFT HAS ACCEPTED THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT,
I SEE NO VIRTUE OR REWARD IN REOPENING A CAN OF WORMS THE GOVERNMENT
REALLY
IS NOT EQUIPPED OR,CAPABLE OF RESOLVING. IF WHAT WAS GOOD FOR GENERAL
MOTORS
,WAS EVER GOOD FOR THE NATION, THE SENTIMENT APPLIES IN SPADES TO BILL GATES
AND MICROSOFT.